

and awareness for FOP. In his memory, Mackenzie's family has created the Stephen L. Roach Fund for FOP Research, which to date has raised more than \$800,000.

Last March, President Bush declared 2002–2011 as National Bone and Joint Decade. That is a very hopeful development, and hope goes a long way. When we join that hope with a sustained focus on finding a cure for FOP, we will go even further.

NINTH CIRCUIT COURT SPLIT—S.

562

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in sponsoring S. 562, which will reorganize the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. I have been a long-time advocate of splitting this controversial court and my passion was further enflamed when a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit ruled that the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance are unconstitutional. I found this ruling appalling.

In fact, I am also a cosponsor of S. Res. 71, which expressed support of the Pledge of Allegiance. This resolution unanimously passed the Senate on March 4. This resolution came as a result of the Ninth Circuit voting not to have the full court reconsider the earlier decision, which I believe was a mistake.

The current Ninth Circuit encompasses nine States, two territories, and 14 million square miles. The current population is estimated at 45 million people; however, the Census Bureau has estimated the population to grow to 63 million by the year 2010. In comparison, the circuit with the second highest population is the Sixth Circuit, which contains 29 million people. The Ninth Circuit also seats the highest number of active judges with 28, whereas the Fifth Circuit has the second highest with 17. The average number of judges in each circuit, excluding the Ninth Circuit, is 12.6.

The population served by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals needs a change. The liberal, frequently reversed decisions handed down by the Ninth Circuit do not fairly represent the views of my State and many of those in the surrounding region. About half of the judges on the Ninth Circuit are California based and, with all due respect, do not reflect the principles and values of those of us from Montana.

The amount of time between filing and disposition on the Ninth Circuit is exorbitant. In 2001, the national average was 10.9 months, while the Ninth Circuit's average time was 15.8 months, nearly a 5-month difference. From 1996 to 2001, the national average has increased by 0.5 months while the Ninth Circuit's average has increased by 1.5 months.

The size, unbalanced judgeships, high reversal record, and intracircuit conflicts of the Ninth Circuit, along with the past success of dividing the Fifth

Circuit, endorse the notion of division. It was the intent of Congress to create regional courts based upon identity of population and the current Ninth Circuit Court simply does not reflect Montana's unique social, cultural, geographic or economic characteristics.

This trend cannot continue. It is time to split the Ninth Circuit and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this reasonable, commonsense bill.

ZIMBABWE

Mr. FEINGOLD. I rise to draw the Senate's attention to events in Zimbabwe, where a continuing political and economic crisis is devastating the country and threatening the future of the southern African region. A combination of corruption at the highest levels of government, political desperation leading to ill-conceived economic and agricultural policies implemented in chaotic fashion, and severe political repression have brought the country to its knees. Already devastated by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, Zimbabwe is now gripped by a food crisis—one in large part caused by the government's policies. Nearly 40 percent of Zimbabweans are malnourished. This in a country that used to be a net exporter of food to the region.

Members of Zimbabwe's ruling party and their cronies have led their own country to ruin—even starvation—in order to manipulate the population and retain power. We are talking about a government that tortures independent journalists, beats respected civil society leaders who have testified before Congress, murders opposition supporters, and recently even arrested and detained a U.S. diplomat.

Last week, President Bush signed an executive order freezing the assets of 77 Zimbabwean individuals responsible for this repression and abuse, and prohibiting Americans from having business dealings with them. This is a step many of us in Congress had been anticipating for some time. Just last month I asked Secretary of State Powell about the status of the asset freeze, and more recently I spoke with the President's National Security Advisor, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, about this matter. I am glad the delay is over, and I commend the President for taking this step.

I was recently in Botswana and South Africa, and it is clear the consequences of the crisis are spilling over into other parts of the southern African region. Zimbabweans desperate to escape are spilling across borders. Foreign investors are nervous about engagement in the region. And the muted reaction of other African leaders is calling into question their commitment to the basic principles so critical to the development of the region.

I also commend the President and the administration for making it clear that the U.S. condemnation of the Zimbabwean government has nothing

to do with race, and everything to do with basic principles like the rule of law, democratic governance, and freedom of expression. As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on African Affairs, I look forward to continuing to work with the administration, with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, with African leaders, and with the many brave and capable Zimbabweans who are working to stop Zimbabwe's decline into disorder and to realize the potential of the Zimbabwean people.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise to take note of International Women's Day, which people around the world commemorated last Saturday. For nearly a century, women's groups worldwide have paused on March 8 to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women in all fields of human endeavor throughout our history. It is a special occasion to remember the progress women have made and to reflect upon the injustices and hardships they still face.

When I arrive here a decade ago, there were only six women in the Senate, and four of them had just come in with me in the Class of '92. Today there are 14. Of the 18 women who have ever been elected to a full term in the Senate, 13 are here now. There are now 62 women in the House of Representatives—the most ever. And NANCY PELOSI recently became the first woman ever chosen to lead a majority party in the Congress. Around the world, at latest count, almost 500 million people live in countries with female elected heads of government.

These are encouraging signs that we are making progress toward achieving full equality for women in the political realm. But even after the great advances of the past decade, women, who are more than half the electorate, account for only 14 percent of each House of the U.S. Congress. This is just one example of how, in so many areas, we still have a long way to go.

Women have made tremendous strides in the last century. In the United States today, more women than ever are attending college and earning post-graduate degrees. More women are entering the workforce and starting their own companies. But although equal pay for equal work has been the law of the land since 1963, on average, women still earn substantially less than men. Wage discrimination persists, costing families thousands of dollars each year. I am proud to support legislative efforts to correct this discrepancy.

While many women are going to work, many have to sacrifice time spent with their children in order to afford child care, education, and health care for their kids. Too often, women and children fall through the cracks of

our system. Violence against women is still all too prevalent in our country. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury among women of child-bearing age. One out of every six American women has been a victim of a rape or an attempted rape. Many rapes go unreported. Only recently have States begun to recognize crimes such as stalking or marital rape.

Outside the United States, the situation for women is often far starker. Last year, the world came to understand the brutal treatment of Afghan women under the reign of the Taliban. Unfortunately, the Taliban regime was just an extreme example of the kinds of repression and denial of basic freedoms that women face in much of the developing world. Women in many places are denied such basic rights as owning property. They are more likely to live in poverty, suffer from malnutrition, and lack access to education. Despite the expansion of women's health care research and practices in the last two decades, women still have unequal access to these services.

Such policies are not only unjust, they are unwise. Numerous studies have shown that one of the best investments a developing society can make is educating its girls. In societies where women are literate, infant mortality is lower and children are healthier and better fed. "Women are critical players in ensuring household food security and nutrition," according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development. "Increasing the economic resilience of the poor is largely about enabling women to realize their socioeconomic potential more fully and improve the quality of their lives. To do so, women need access to assets, services, knowledge and technologies, and must be active in decision-making processes." This is important to keep in mind as we grapple this year with food crises in Africa and elsewhere.

As we contemplate going to war with Iraq, we should bear in mind that women often suffer more than men from armed conflict. Women and girls are among those most affected by the violence, economic instability, and displacement associated with warfare, and they frequently are threatened by rape and sexual exploitation, whether at home, in flight, or in refugee camps. Rape and sexual assault have often been used as weapons of war. The U.N. Security Council passed a resolution on Women, Peace and Security in 2000. Yet the deliberate killing, rape, mutilation, forced displacement, abduction, trafficking, and torture of women and girls continue unabated in contemporary armed conflicts, according to UNIFEM.

Although it is usually men who go off to war, women often bear much of the burden. It is therefore crucial that women be active and respected participants in peace-building and reconstruction.

In peacetime as well, women are often victims of domestic violence and

illegal trafficking for slavery and prostitution. In some countries, women fall victim to "honor killings," a deplorable practice whereby women are murdered by male relatives for actions that are perceived to bring dishonor to the family.

The Senate will likely soon be considering landmark legislation to deal with the global problem of HIV/AIDS, which I hope to be able to support. Here again, women must be at the center of our deliberations. Statistics compiled by UNAIDS show that both the spread and impact of HIV and AIDS disproportionately affect women and adolescent girls who are socially, culturally, biologically, and economically more vulnerable. In 1997, 41 percent of HIV-infected adults worldwide were women. In the latest report, they accounted for half. In North Africa and the Middle East, 54 percent of HIV-positive adults are women; in the Caribbean, 52 percent are. U.N. experts believe that women's empowerment is one of the only AIDS vaccines available today in most of the world, and that gender equality should be a guiding principle in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

I have had the opportunity to travel to numerous countries in Africa and see firsthand the devastating toll that HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases are taking on the people of that continent. Young women are especially at risk. The United Nations reports that in Africa girls aged 15 to 19 are infected with HIV at a rate of 15 to 23 percent, whereas infection rates among boys of the same age group are 3 to 4 percent.

Mr. President, the protection of women's rights is vital to the success of promoting fundamental human rights. The Senate can work towards protecting women's rights and improve the status of women domestically and internationally by acting upon the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, or CEDAW. CEDAW is the most comprehensive treaty on women's human rights, addressing almost all forms of discrimination in areas such as education, employment, marriage and family, health care, politics, and law. It has been over two decades since the United States signed this treaty, and it still awaits consideration before the Senate. Once again, I urge the Committee on Foreign Relations to take up this treaty and finally allow the Senate the opportunity to offer its advice and consent.

In conclusion, as we honor women everywhere and celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to history, we must recognize that there is still more to be done in the struggle for gender equity. Discrimination and violence against women still exist here at home and abroad. The United States and the rest of the international community must reaffirm their commitment to promote gender equality and human rights around the world.●

SHRM LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

● Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I welcome the members of the Society for Human Resource Management, SHRM, to Washington, D.C. for their 20th Annual Employment Law and Legislative Conference. Today, more than 200 SHRM members will visit Capitol Hill to share their views and experiences with issues such as the Fair Labor Standards Act, health care reform, and pension reform.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. Representing more than 170,000 individual members, the society serves the needs of human resource professionals by providing a comprehensive set of resources. As an influential voice, SHRM also seeks to advance the human resources profession by ensuring that human resources is an essential and effective partner in developing and executing organizational strategy.

As a legislator, as a human resources professional, and as a member of SHRM, I want to congratulate SHRM for recognizing the important role individuals can play in affecting the legislative process. Human resources professionals are crucial to the successful operation of our nation's businesses and organizations. Most importantly they understand the positive impact of meeting with their Senators and Representatives to discuss recent workplace trends, their policy implications, and suggested remedies.

Citizen participation is a crucial component of the legislative process, allowing legislators and their staff the opportunity to hear constituents explain personal experiences as they live and work within our nation's laws. Finally, legislators gain critical knowledge through these conversations, resulting in legislation that's clearly applicable to the workplace and effective for employees and employers.

I sincerely thank the members of SHRM for their commitment to provide value to employees and employers across the United States while contributing an essential component to the political process—practical real world experience.●

TRIBUTE TO JEANNIE BRIGHT

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Fort Knox civilian employee Jeannie Bright. As a technical publications editor with Fort Knox's Directorate of Training, Doctrine, and Combat Development, Ms. Bright was recently named the Training and Doctrine Command's Editor of the Year. She will be honored at the Secretary of the Army Awards ceremony in the Pentagon on March 14.

Ms. Bright began her civilian career with the Army in 1974. Over the past 22 years, she has poured over millions of words in search of errors and in pursuit of accuracy in Army publications for